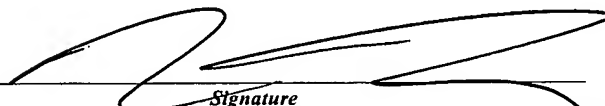
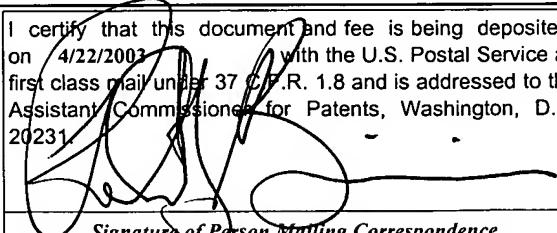
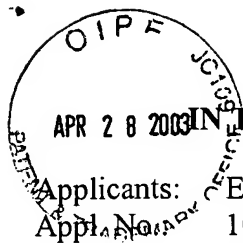


1616

<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER</b> <b>(General - Patent Pending)</b>			Docket No. <b>DI-5782</b>
In Re Application Of <b>Elizabettni et al.</b>			
Serial No. <b>10/044,234</b>	Filing Date <b>January 11, 2002</b>	Examiner <b>F. Choi</b>	Group Art Unit <b>1616</b>
Title: <b>BICARBONATE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR DIALYSIS THERAPIES</b>			
<u>TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</u>			
Transmitted herewith is:  <b>Response to Office Action (2 pages) and Return Receipt Postcard</b>		<b>RECEIVED</b> <b>APR 30 2003</b> <b>TECH CENTER 1600/2900</b>	
in the above identified application.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required.			
<input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ is attached.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. <b>02-1818</b> as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Charge the amount of _____			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayment.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional fee required.			
 Signature		Dated: <b>April 22, 2003</b>	
<b>Robert M. Barrett (30,142)</b> <b>ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANTS</b> <b>Bell, Boyd &amp; Lloyd LLC</b> <b>P.O. Box 1135</b> <b>Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135</b>		<div style="font-size: small;">I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on <u>4/22/2003</u> with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><b>Robert J. Buccieri</b> Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence</div>	
CC:			



9/ Election  
w/ traverse

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Elizabettni et al.  
App. No.: 10/044,234  
Conf. No.: 8974  
Filed: January 11, 2002  
Title: BICARBONATE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR DIALYSIS THERAPIES  
Art Unit: 1616  
Examiner: F. Choi  
Docket No.: DI-5782

But

5-3-03

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

## REMARKS

This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on March 26, 2003.

The Office Action is a restriction requirement. In this regard, Applicants are to choose from six (6) different groups of alleged inventions. The inventions are as follows: Group I (Claims 1-16); Group II (Claims 17-29); Group III (Claims 30-43); Group IV (Claims 44-54); Group V (Claims 53-63); and Group VI (Claims 64-72).

Applicants elect Group I (Claims 1-16) with traverse. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement is not proper. The restriction requirement merely appears to be groupings of inventions by the Patent Office. In this regard, the Patent Office has not engaged in the proper restriction requirement analysis.

MPEP § 803 states when a restriction is proper. Specifically, in relevant part, § 803 states:

If the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims that are independent to distinct inventions.

The sole analysis the Patent Office has engaged in is whether or not the inventions are distinct from each other. The Patent Office has not stated what classes and subclasses the different inventions are classified in. Therefore, how does the Patent Office know that examination of the different inventions will create any burden, let alone serious burden? The Patent Office has failed to demonstrate that examination of all the groups together would create any undue burden. Accordingly, the restriction requirement is not proper.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn or that the proper analysis be set forth.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

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Dated: April 22, 2003